

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4 through 11 are pending in this application. Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 3 through 9 contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the only remaining issue pivots about the patentability of claims 1, 2, 10 and 11.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 9 and 10 have been amended and claims 2 and 3 cancelled. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Indeed, adequate descriptive support for the present amendment should be apparent throughout the originally filed disclosure noting, for example, that the limitations of claim 3, indicated allowable, have been incorporated into independent claim 1, the dependency of claims 4, 6 and 9 appropriately changed, a typographical oversight corrected in claim 6 as courteously suggested by the Examiner, and objectionable language eliminated from claim 10. Applicant submits that the present Amendment does not generate any new matter issue.

Objection to the Specification.

The Examiner objected to the specification as lacking a basis for the division ratio recited in claim 10. In response the language identified by the Examiner has been deleted from claim 10, thereby overcoming the stated basis for the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is solicited.

Claim Objection.

The Examiner objected to claim 6 identifying a manifest typographical oversight and courteously suggesting remedial language. In response the typographical oversight identified by the Examiner in claim 6 has been corrected, thereby overcoming the stated basis for the imposed

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objection. The Examiner's perspicacity is appreciated. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 6 is solicited.

Claims 1 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by Nishiyama.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon Nishiyama.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon Nishiyama in view of Lau et al.

Each of the above rejections is traversed. Specifically, the limitations of claim 3, indicated allowable, have been incorporated into independent claim 1, upon which all remaining claims depend. Accordingly, each of the above rejections has been rendered moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by Nishiyama, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon Nishiyama and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon Nishiyama in view of Lau et al., are solicited.

In summary, the limitations of claim 3, indicated allowable, have been incorporated into independent claim 1 from which all remaining claims depend. Accordingly, by the present Amendment, this application is placed in clear condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

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including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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